

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, TU, GR, CY, UR

SUBJECT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR ON SOVIETS AND CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY TURKISH AMBASSADOR TURKMEN SEES THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS AS IMPRACTICAL. THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE, IN HIS VIEW, IS TO BE ONE OF THE GUARANTORS OF ANY FUTURE SETTLEMENT. HE WONDERED IF THE U.S. HAD BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE THE PROPOSAL WAS PUBLISHED. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR TURKMEN CALLED ON DCM AUGUST 23 TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON CYPRUS (SEPTEL). IN HIS VIEW THE SOVIETS ARE SIMPLY FLOATING AN IDEA WHICH MAY APPEAL TO SOME NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, BUT IS OBVIOUSLY CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPRACTICAL. TURKMEN SAW AMBASSADOR MININ (CHIEF MIDDLE

EASTERN COUNTRIES DIVISION, MFA, AND FORMER SOVIET
OBSERVER AT GENEVA) AUGUST 23 TO ASK WHAT THE SOVIETS
INTENDED. ACCORDING TO TURKMEN, PART OF THE DIALOGUE
WENT LIKE THIS:
TURKMEN: DO THE SOVIETS REALLY WANT SUCH A HUGE CONGERENCE?
MININ: THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS NEGOTIABLE.
TURKMEN: WHAT WOULD THE CONFERENCE DISCUSS, THE CYPRIOT
CONSTITUTION?
MININ: (SHARPLY): NO, THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS MUST BE ALLOWED
TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT.
TURKMEN: THEN WHAT WOULD THE CONFERENCE DO.
MININ: CREATE NEW GUARANTEES.
TURKMEN: HAS ANY SUCH CONFERENCE EVER ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING?
MININ: YES, ON VIETNAM (THIS REFERENCE IS PRESUMABLY TO THE
1954 INDOCHINA CONFERENCE).
TURKMEN: WHAT ABOUT CHINESE PARTICIPATION?
MININ: (NO REPLY, JULT A SMILE).

3. IN TURKMEN'S VIEW, THE SOVIETS' MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO GAIN
A ROLE IN ANY FUTURE GUARANTEES. THEY REMAIN STRONGLY
OPPOSED TO PARTITION, BUT ARE NO LONGER TALKING ABOUT THE
UNITY OF CYPRUS OR ABOUT MAKARIOS. THEY MAY SEE SOME
SORT OF FEDERATION AS THE LIKELY OUTCOME, AND WOULD
LIKE TO ACHIEVE A POSITION FROM WHICH THEY COULD
PREVENT FEDERATION FROM EVENTUALLY LEADING TO
PARTITION. THE SOVIETS, IN HIS VIEW, HAVE ACTED VERY
CAUTIOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE CYPRUS CIRISIS. THEY ARE NO
DOUBT DELIGHTED TO SEE ANY SIGNS OF DISARRAY IN NATO,
BUT THEY HAVE DONE NOTHING TO STIR THE POT. THEY PROBABLY
DO NOT FAVOR A BIG BLOW-UP AND THEY CANNOT RULE OUT A
FURTHER RECONCILIATION. THUS THEY REAMIN CAUTIOUS.
THEIR RELATIONS WITH GREECE HAVE WARMED UP AND THEY
RPBABLY HOPE TO ENCOURAGE THE LEFTIST FORCES THERE, BUT
TURKEY, AS A LARGER COUNTRY AND ONE WHICH BORDERS THEM,
WIL ALWAYS BE MORE IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIETS.

4. TURKMEN SUGGESTED THAT THE PROTION OF THE STATEMENT
ABOUT CYPRUS BEING A DANGER TO DETENTE WAS A SIGNAL TO
THE U.S. AND ASKED SEVERAL TIMES WHETER THE SOVIETS
HAD CONSULTED WITH THE U.S. BEFORE PUTTING OUT THIS
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PROPOSAL. DCM SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO SUCH CONSULTATIONS
AND THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT THE IDEA OF A LARGE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS WOULD NOT FLY.
TURKMEN WOUNDERED IF THE YUGOSLAVS HAD THOUGHT IT UP, AND
NOTED THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IF THE
GREEKS SUPPORTED IT.
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